

## Foreword

*This document represents the second in a series of assessment and guidance documents that will be prepared for the 14 major “ecoregions” of Massachusetts. The purpose of these documents is to evaluate the conditions, identify the issues, and generate lists of goals and recommendations that will help guide future forest management activities in the ecoregions. Representatives from the three primary state land management divisions (Fisheries & Wildlife, State Parks & Recreation, and Water Supply Protection) jointly develop these documents, with substantial and valuable public input. As each assessment/guidance document is drafted, public meetings are held to solicit comment and input, and review copies are posted on the [Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs](#) website and advertised in the [Environmental Monitor](#). The state’s forests, parks, reservations, and wildlife management areas belong to the people of Massachusetts; we welcome and encourage the active participation of the public as we develop plans for the long-term sustainable management of those lands.*

*The organization of this document is largely based on the general categories proposed by the ["Montreal Process"](#), with some modifications. The document is organized into two main sections: the “descriptive” portion of the document includes subsections on: Conservation of Biological Diversity; Forest Conditions, Health and Productivity; Soil & Water Conservation; Regional and Global Considerations; and Socio-economic Factors. The “management” section includes: Issues, Goals, and Recommendations; and A Forest Management Framework for Massachusetts.*

*The data used in this document came from a variety of sources. The data presented in Figures 3-11, 14, 17, 18, and 22 - 32, along with Tables 3-7, and 10-19 and Appendix I – III, X, XI, and XV is from the Massachusetts Office of Geographic Information Services ([MassGIS](#)). Many of these Figures and Tables are provided by DCR / Division of Planning & Engineering (GIS). They also provided Figures 1 & 2, and Tables 1 & 9. DCR’s / Bureau of Forest Fire Control and Forestry provided Figure 16 (from data derived from DFW) and some of the Tables. The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (NHESP) provided Figures 9-11 and 14, as well as the Tables in Appendix IV, VI, and VIII (adapted from data obtained from the Invasive Plant Atlas of New England (IPANE) and MIPGIR Report ). DFW provided Figures 12 (from the USGS North American Breeding Bird Survey), 13, and 19 (adapted information obtained from the Harvard Forest /Petersham, Massachusetts, which is also used in Table 8), and Table 2(abcd) (from data adapted from the USDA Forest Service). DFW also did the data analysis used to develop Figure 18 and Appendix VII. DCR’s Bureau of Forest Fire Control & Forestry also provided Figures 15, 20, and 21, Tables 1 and 9, and Appendix XII - XIV from data derived from the U.S. Forest Service’s Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program. EOEA provide the information in Appendix V and the “Friends of Mohawk Trail State Forest and Associates” provided the information in Appendix IX. The information on the [Forest-based Industry](#) in the Berkshire Ecoregions (Tables 20-23) came from DCR’s / Bureau of Forest Fire Control & Forestry. Tables 24 & 25 are derived from information from the “Massachusetts Maple Producers Association” and the “Massachusetts Christmas Tree Association”, respectively. Finally, the [Pre-Historic Archeological Sites](#) information in Table 26 is derived from data provided by DCR’s /Division of Planning & Engineering and Appendix XVI.*

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